

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1051

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the University of Memphis Football Team upon another winning season and being the Motor City Bowl champions.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor and commend those successful college teams that, through their physical prowess and execution of their game plan, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this great State; and

WHEREAS, led by Coach Tommy West, the University of Memphis football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005 season, compiling the team's third straight winning season, and claiming the Motor City Bowl trophy; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis conquered three other bowl teams including Houston, UTEP, and Southern Mississippi (in Hattiesburg no less), and gave the University of Tennessee the scare of its lifetime as the three-touchdown underdog Tigers took the Vols to the final play; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers football team was led by 16 outstanding senior athletes that included All-American DeAngelo Williams, Maurice Avery, Stephen Gostkowski, Tim Goodwell, Andrew Handy, John Douchette, Marcus West, LaVale Washington, Carlton Baker, O. C. Collins, and Greg Billingslea; and

WHEREAS, running back DeAngelo Williams established the NCAA Division 1 record for all purpose yards with 7,573, and the record for career 100-yard rushing games with 34; in 2005, DeAngelo Williams rushed for 1,964 yards, leading the nation, and was a Heisman Trophy Candidate; and

WHEREAS, wide receiver Maurice Avery, who holds the University of Memphis record for most receptions in a game with 13, and ranks seventh in yards and eighth in career

receptions with 87, switched positions in the sixth game of this season to take over the quarterback chores, guiding the Tigers to 5 wins in 7 outings and proving himself to be a dual threat; and

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2005, the Memphis Tigers defeated the University of Akron in the Motor City Bowl, 38-31; and

WHEREAS, "Motown", named for the legendary record label, was temporarily named for "Mo" Avery after the versatile runner-passer extraordinaire, Maurice Avery, dazzled the fans at Ford Field before journeying to Hawaii for the Hula Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Motor City's #1 automobile, without question, was the DeAngelo-mobile, who shifted and accelerated through the Zips for 238 high-octane yards, a bowl record, in being named MVP of the Motor City Bowl; and

WHEREAS, DeAngelo Williams was named to the Associated Press, Walter Camp, and American Football Coaches Association All-America Teams, and he was named the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year for the third consecutive season; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers' kicker, Stephen Gostkowski, was named the Conference USA Special Teams Player of the Year in 2005; and

WHEREAS, eight Memphis players received All-Conference USA honors in 2005, including DeAngelo Williams, Stephen Gostkowski, Andrew Handy, Maurice Avery, Wesley Smith, Michael Gibson, Maurice Jones, and Brandon Pierce; and

WHEREAS, the Tiger football team appeared on both national and regional television in eleven of the twelve games played last season; and

WHEREAS, DeAngelo Williams and Stephen Gostkowski were selected to play in the 2005 Senior Bowl, and Tim Goodwell was selected to play in the All-American Classic; Maurice Avery was selected to play in the Hula Bowl; and

WHEREAS, DeAngelo Williams received the first annual ARA National Sportsmanship Award, and he was named the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Amateur Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, with a 24-13 record during the last three years, Coach West has led the University of Memphis to national prominence, taking the Tigers to three straight bowl games for the first time in school history; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, don't-quit-in-the-face-of-adversity attitude, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable collegiate football season, but also surely point toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to recognize those coaches, collegiate athletes, and college sports teams that bring honor to the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we applaud and congratulate the players and coaches of the University of Memphis football team upon completing a successful season, as well as winning the Motor City Bowl, and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.